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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,652	12/21/2001	Simon Tam	111570	6439

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EXAMINER

ALEMU, EPHREM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2821

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,652

Applicant(s)

TAM, SIMON

Examiner

Ephrem Alemu

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2821

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 16, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dawson et al. (US 6,229,506), previously cited by examiner.

Re claim 16, Dawson discloses a driving method for a display device that includes a pixel driving circuit having a pixel element (i.e., OLED) (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, line 28- Col. 4, line 34), the method comprising:

a programming stage (i.e., load data phase) during which a data current for programming is supplied to the pixel driver circuit (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, lines 31-53); and

a reproduction stage (i.e., continuous illuminating phase) during which a reproduction current corresponding to the data current is supplied to the pixel element (i.e., OLED) (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, line 28- Col. 4, line 34);

the data current flowing through a first path (i.e., P1, P2, OLED) (Fig. 2),

the reproduction current flowing through a second path (i.e., N1, P2, & OLED) (Fig. 2),

a voltage of a connecting node (i.e., the node connecting P1, N1 & P2) between the first path (i.e., P1, P2 & OLED) and the second path (i.e., N1, P2, & OLED) being substantially

Art Unit: 2821

constant during the reproduction stage (i.e., continuous illuminating phase) and the programming stage (i.e., load data phase) (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, lines 24-32 & 61-64).

Re claims 17 and 18, Dawson discloses a driving method for a display device that includes a pixel driving circuit having a pixel element (i.e., OLED) (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, line 28-Col. 4, line 34), the method comprising:

a programming stage (i.e., load data phase) during which a data current for programming is supplied to the pixel driver circuit (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, lines 31-53); and

a reproduction stage (i.e., continuous illuminating phase) during which a current corresponding to the data current is supplied to the pixel element (i.e., OLED)) (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, line 28-Col. 4, line 34);

the data current flowing through a first path (i.e., P1, P2 & OLED) (Fig. 2),

the reproduction current flowing through a second path (i.e., N1, P2, & OLED) (Fig. 2),

and

during the reproduction stage (i.e., continuous illuminating phase), reproducing a voltage at a connecting node (i.e., the node connecting P1, N1 & P2) between the first path (i.e., P1, P2, & OLED) and the second path (i.e., N1, P2, & OLED), the voltage being stored as a voltage of the connecting node during the reprogramming stage (Figs. 2, 6; Col. 3, line 28-Col. 4, line 34).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: it is agreed that the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the limitations: "an input of the unity gain buffer being a voltage at one of a source and a drain of the transistor during a

Art Unit: 2821

programming stage, wherein the unity gain buffer reproduces the voltage during a reproduction stage" in a manner claimed in claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14. The preamble has been incorporated into the body of the claims because it "breathes life into the claims." It is for these reasons in combination with all the other limitations in the independent claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14, that claims 1-15 are allowed.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ephrem Alemu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1818. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F Flex hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don K Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EA
4-19-04


Don Wong
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800